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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

: Group Art Unit: 1754

JAMES S. VARTULI et al.

: Examiner: STEVEN J. BOS

Serial No. 09/681,405

: Response to Paper No. 4

Filed: March 30, 2001

For: INORGANIC ACICULAR BODIES AND  
METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

**AMENDMENT**

HONORABLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 7-29 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 5 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An acicular body comprising at least one inorganic compound of a metal selected from the group consisting of Groups IB, IIA, IIB, IIIA, IIIB, IVA, IVB,

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